

Docket #: 42390P12338

Serial No. 10/027,397

**Remarks**

Claims 1-27 as originally filed remain pending in the present application.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims.

**Disqualifying Reference Under 35 USC 103(c)**

Application 10/027,397 and Patent Application 2003/013202 were, at the time the invention of Application 10/027,397 was made, owned by or subject to an obligation of assignment to Intel Corporation. Accordingly, the 35 U.S.C. 102(e) reference of Patent Application 2003/013202 is disqualified as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103.

**Claim Rejection under 35 USC 102 (Khare)**

The Official Action rejected claim 13 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Khare et al. (Published US Application 2003/0131202). Applicants respectfully request allowance of claim 13.

As is well-established, in order to successfully assert a *prima facie* case of anticipation, the Official Action must provide a single prior art document that includes every element and limitation of the claim or claims being rejected. Therefore, if even one element or limitation is missing from the cited document, the Official Action has not succeeded in making a *prima facie* case.

As discussed in paragraphs [0035] – [0036] of the present application, a valid vector may track which couplers have valid caching agents coupled thereto. Claim 13 requires updating such a valid vector to indicate that a particular coupler is no longer associated with one or more caching agents. Such information may be used to determine whether snooping transactions need to be issued to caching agents attached